Granting status of national institute to Toklai Tea Research station

*272.SHRI SILVIUS CONDPAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the Toklai Tea Research experimental station at Jorhat in Assam is completing its centenary year; and

(b) if so, whether Government will examine the matter of raising the experimental station to the status of National Institute and extend all further facilities to it so that in the present context of tea industry in our country this centre will be more effective in producing quality tea in the world?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Tocklai Experimental Station will be entering its centenary year in 2010. The Government of India has approved a special centenary grant of Rs. 20.00 crores which includes upgradation of infrastructure facilities like laboratory equipment, construction of hostel and training centre buildings, setting up of a centenary Chair and improvements to other campus facilities and expanding the activities of Tea Research Association and its outstation branches to cover other North Eastern States, North Bengal and Darjeeling, in its endeavour to improve the quality of tea research and be more effective in producing quality tea in the world.

Death sentence for offenders of rape

†*273. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is contemplating to bring an effective law to curb the incidents of rape against women;

(b) the number of incidents of murder and rape of women during the last three years, State-wise; and

(c) whether Government would contemplate death sentence for heinous act like rape in order to rein in anti-social elements as there is no rigorous punishment at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Apart from the recommendations of the Law Commission of India and the National Commission for Women, there have been suggestions from various quarters for amending the provisions in the Indian Penal Code relating to rape. These are being examined in consultation with the State Governments and other concerned.

(b) The information is given in the Statement-I and II (see below). Gender classification of murder cases is not maintained.

(c) Neither the Mallmath Committee on Reforms of Criminal Justice System nor the Law Commission of India in its 172nd Report on 'Review of Rape Laws' has recommended death as penalty for rape.

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi